Reflective Journal

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As my co teacher and I planned this week, we incorporated Parallel Teaching and Station Teaching into our lessons. The first model we tried was Parallel Teaching. We really liked using this model because we thought by having the class divided into two smaller groups it would increase student learning. Also, we found that the students were more on task and there were less behavior problems. Another advantage of parallel teaching was planning together. It is always better when you are planning together. It is always better when you are planning together as a team rather than as an individual. I feel very strongly about separating some students away from others. It is amazing how just one student can change the dynamics of a class in a negative way. The only thing we could have done differently was to make sure we stayed at the same place in the lesson. We found that we were rarely at the same place in the lesson due to teaching styles and student readiness. Overall, we found that parallel teaching was an excellent choice.

The second model we tried was station teaching. We tried this model mainly because we could separate the students into smaller groups. We both felt that the students learned better in smaller groups. Another positive I have about using the station teaching model is that I get the opportunity to teach all of the students in the class because of the rotation. This is a great model to use when considering students with special needs or disabilities because the students receive more individual help in smaller groups. The one thing we found we could have done differently is to allow for more time at each station. Sometimes, as teachers we need to slow down and make sure all students understand what is being taught.

All in all, I am glad we chose the models that we did. They were well suited to both of us.